BRO STYLE GNARKANSAS | SKATE MENTAL MIDWEST | AYC SOUTHWEST | MAJERUS SPOTLIGHT

TRANSWORLD SKATEboarding

APRIL 2016
ISSUE #374

COLE WILSON, 50-50 UP.

TWS | ISSUE #374 | APRIL 2016

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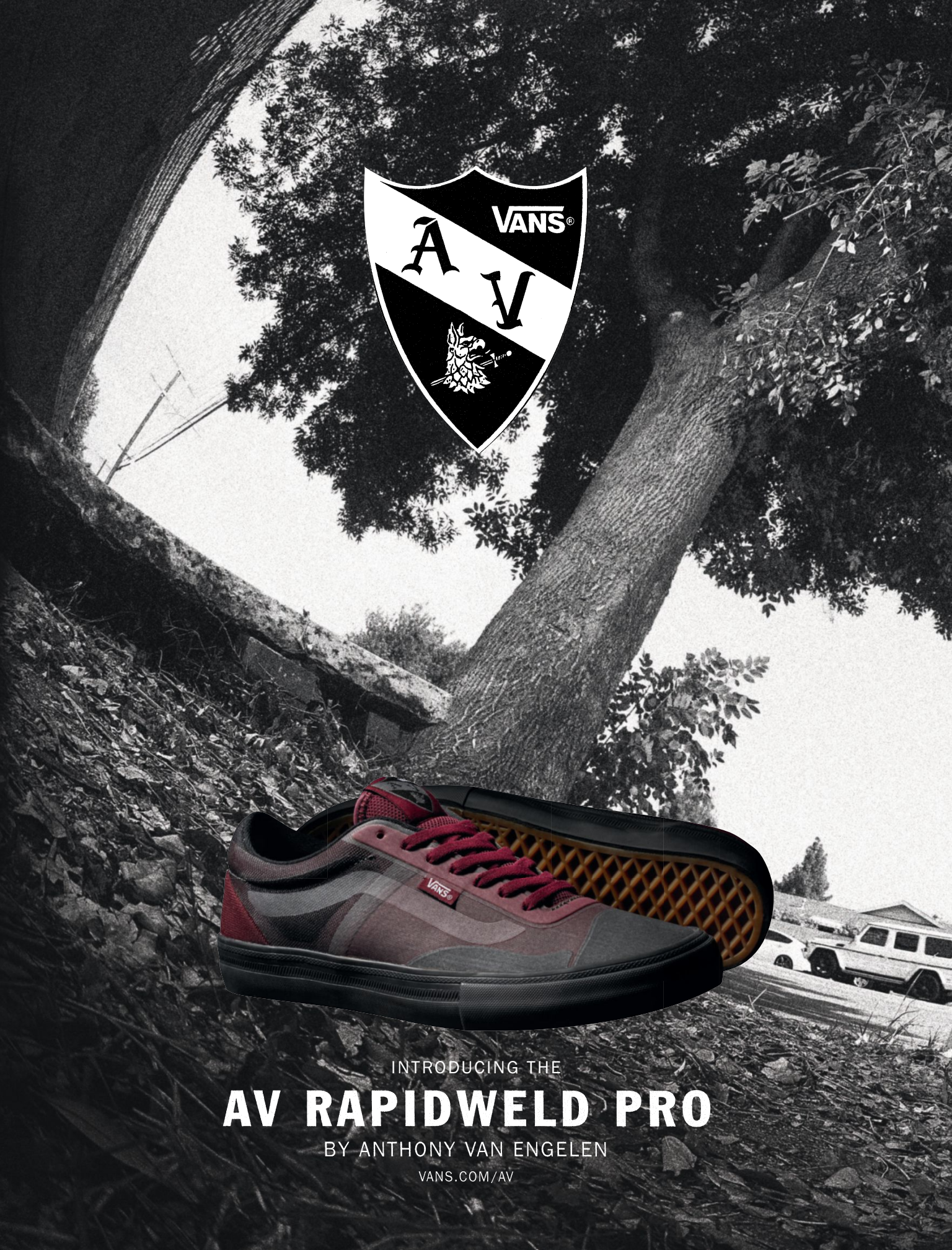
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Jacob Hayes, frontside 50-50. Oceanside, CA.

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ON THE COVER

This man is a grinding machine. **Cole Wilson** will grind down or up anything you got. So it's a no brainer that this rail was a perfect spot for Cole to break new ground with the first double kink **50-50 up**. **OWENS**

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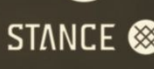

Kevin Braun

Nollie flip nose!

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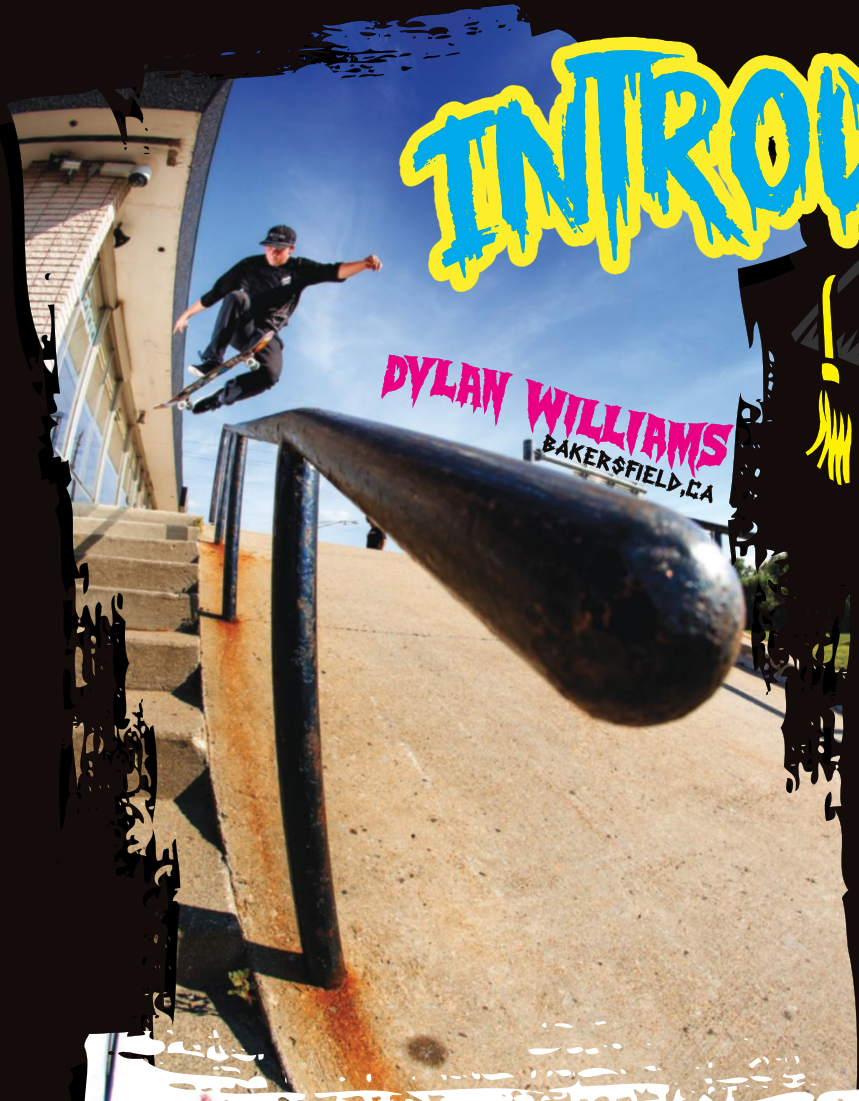

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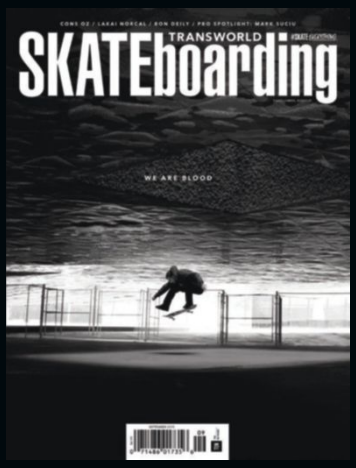

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HOLD ON TO YOUR FRIENDS

Secombe Savoy Watene, backside Smith grind, 2003. Sydney.

You probably have a best friend (or a couple if you're really lucky.) You know that one homie you've skated with since you were kids or whom you lived with when you first left home. The guy you skate with after work, the old friend who lives in a different country now but will call you regularly to catch up, the guy whose friendship has never faltered no matter how much you yourself might have been blowing it. This guy is mine—Secombe Savoy Watene, 38 years old, epic skateboarder, loving husband, father to three amazing boys, loyal brother and best friend to not only myself but most of the New Zealand and Australian skateboarding scenes. He had so much love in him that his human heart couldn't contain it all, and sadly we lost him. I just want to say: Hold on to your friends. They're really what makes this thing of ours so special. Rest in peace Secombe, I love you.

Dave Chami
Senior Photographer

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WAS THAT ROOF ROLL-IN SWITCH?

BY BLAIR ALLEY

PRO WITH *SUBSTANCE*
Jon Nguyen got the pro surprise on our *TWS* Awards stage by Paul Shier just before *Substance* premiered. Pick up *Substance* on DVD, Vimeo On Demand, and iTunes now—and Jon's pro Isle board!

COMIN' IN HOAX
Stove Skateboards, nice little hoax by Staba and Koston. We're still waiting for our tacos! Or will it be Numbers?

ERIK BRAGG'S POWERFUL BALLS
No stranger to pranks, Erik Bragg set Instagram on fire with his claim to Powerball billions. It did net him pro model Stance socks, a Plan B board, and untold new followers.

***THREADCLEANER* AND THE VACATION**
The Threads Idea Vacuum premiered its latest video on our site announcing The Vacation skateboards. David Clark, Jason Spivey, Brian Powderly, and Jonathan "should be your new favorite skater" Ettman.

ROOF ROLL-INS IN THE SNOW
Matt Ramiller's *NWS* part shocked all and made us smile. Skating and creating in northern Minnesota! The wildest rooftop transfers since Caz in the first Natural Koncept video!

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN
Very sad to see our filmer Carson Lee's dog, Falcor, pass away. She was a regular fixture on sessions and road trips, and brought all of our spirits up. Rest in peace, sweet pup.

SHAWN POWERS VERSUS THE LOBSTERS
This bizarre video showed Palace's Shawn Powers freeing, er, uh chucking lobsters against a wall after smashing open their tank. Could cows be next to complete the controversial surf and turf?

RICHARD OATES, R.I.P.
We're very saddened to see the passing of East River Skate Shop owner Richard Oates, who slipped out while skitching on a truck in NYC. Richard is survived by his wife and two children. Rest in peace. And stay safe out there.

THE WIRE

Agenda trade show weekend brings all types of sponsorship and product news. You probably know all about it, but **Sebo Walker** went pro for **Krooked**. **Diamond Footwear** launched with **Brandon Biebel**, **Torey Pudwill**, and **Nick Tucker**. **Biebel** is also now on **Venture Trucks**. **Brandon "Boner" Bonner** went pro for **Natural Koncept**. Check their tour video hitting our web portal asap. New **5B** pros **Jordan Trahan**, **Rob Gonyon**, and **Silvester Eduardo**! **Chris Colbourn** got cut from the **HUF** flowgram and is now getting **CONS**. **Devine Calloway** is back on board and pro for **Primitive**. **Josh Anderson** is on **The Killing Floor** with a ripping welcome video on our site. **Chris Gentry's Pro Trainer** contraption stirred up some comments and controversy. Not sure how many people are going to drop 2,200 dollars on that thing. ***Quartet*** from **Butter Goods** is a video you really need to watch. **Wes "Krusty K" Kremer**'s pro model number two from **DC** is coming this year. It's **Vans**' 50th anniversary, so look for a year full of fun from them. They've already dropped a **chef/kitchen capsule** and 50 colorways of the **Sk8-Hi**! To the Starman who fell to Earth, we were sad to see **Mr. David Bowie** pass away last month. Thanks for the immeasurable influence and soundtracks to some of our most beloved video parts.

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Wallie backside nosegrind. Los Angeles, CA.

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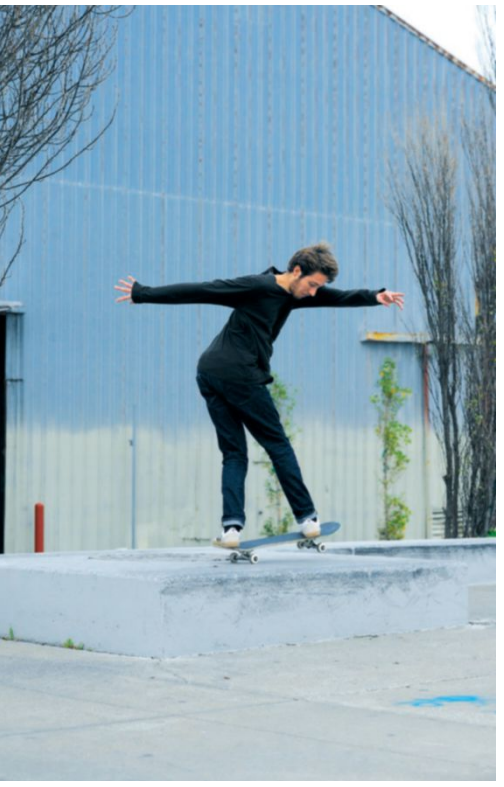
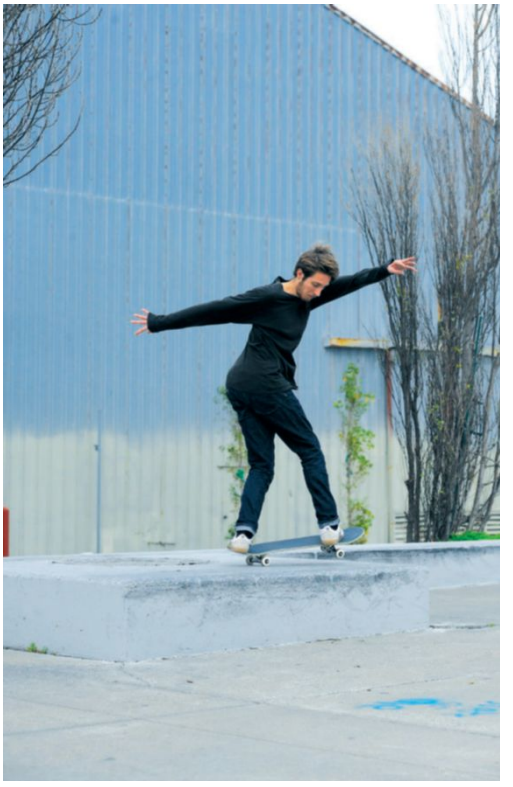
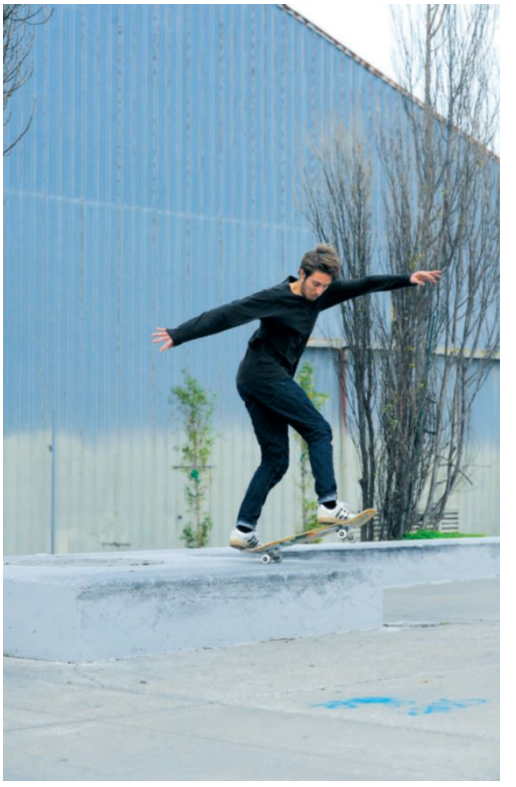
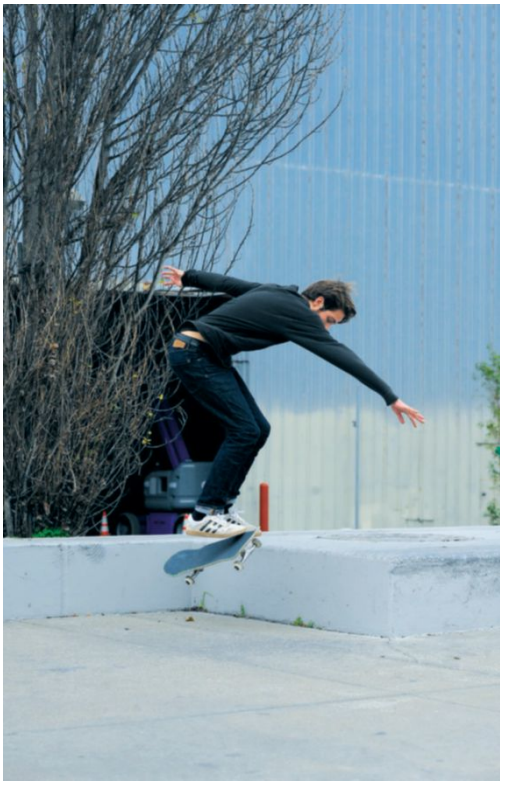
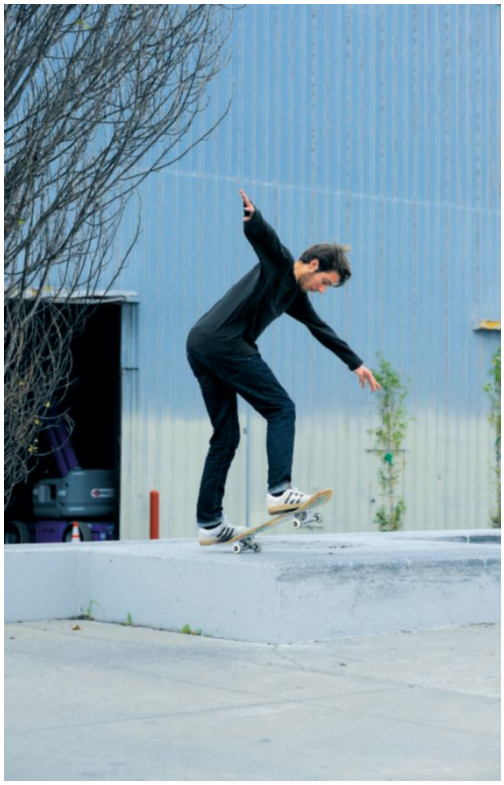






Backside 180 fakie manual, frontside bigspin out. San Francisco, CA.

CHAMI



DENNIS BUSENITZ

Ollie up, tailslide, frontside 360. San Jose, CA.

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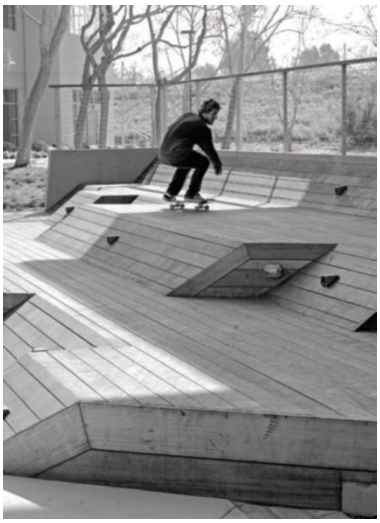

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EAZY ACCESS FOR THE BROS

Sometimes it's a new board, sometimes it's a new shoe, and sometimes it's a new shirt. Sometimes it's just a sick bar of wax whose only meaning in life is to be destroyed the second we come across a virgin ledge or dry, crusty bank. There's no theme. There's no rhyme or reason. It's simple: Brands make sick stuff, and we like that stuff. Get it? So take a look at a few of the things we're thumbs-upping this month. **–BRIAN BLAKELY**

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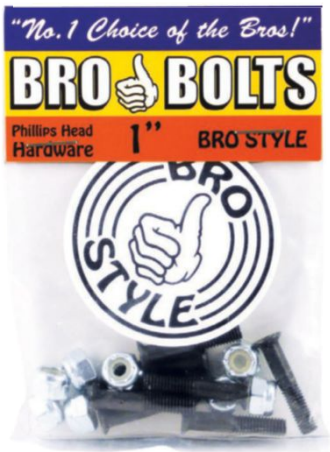

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TAYLOR KIRBY

JEF HARTSEL

CHUCK KATZ

Jef discusses one of the first full pole jam photos shot by Chuck Katz at Windward and Speedway in Venice, CA.

Hartsel: When I moved to Venice in the late '80s I moved into the old Alva house there. That's where Tony [Alva] and the artist Mongo used to live. Just knowing that I was moving into that house with them was like a gnarly thing for me. My first roomie there, who had gotten on Alva a little before me was Cooksie [Chris Cooke]. So he was kind of like my road dog for a minute. We also both worked at the Alva factory, but whenever we weren't working it was all about skating the streets of Venice together.

Just seeing Cooksie's approach—basically, Cooksie liked to skate unskateable spots [laughs]. Even as far as one of the first handrail photos in skating, it's actually Cooksie. I don't think people realize it, but Cooksie did a 50-50 down the stage at the Oceanside contest. He didn't ollie on or even caveman it. But when they called his name, he put his trucks on the 50-50 and stood up there, then grinded down the handrail to start his run. I think it might have been the same day that Natas [Kaupas] tried to ollie on to it. But I had also seen Cooksie try to straight grind up even vertical poles. Being with him 24 hours a day and seeing the crazy shit that he did, it kind of planted the seed in my mind.

That one right there on Windward went through different phases of the degree of angle over time. Basically at some point a car had hit it and bent it. When Cooksie first started trying them it must have been at like 11:00. I would say I'm doing it in the photo at like 9:30. He was having trouble, so I just kind of chalked it up as like, "There's Cooksie trying to skate some unskateable shit again" [laughs].

But as far as that being the first day doing that when the photo was taken, no. Like I mentioned earlier, when Cooksie was trying it—I don't know how much prior to that day—it was much steeper. One day I just noticed it not being as steep, so that's when I started trying it. The hardest thing about that pole jam was really that when the truck or car that hit it—when the pole bent—it actually broke the ground around it. The asphalt was all crumbled away, so you had to navigate over that before you even hit the pole. I had never done the trick or never seen anyone do it beside Cooksie. And actually I never even saw Cooksie land one. But I do remember Cooksie getting a Jimmy'Z ad trying one before my ad. *

When the SMA ad came out, in the photo I'm riding Jesse [Martinez]'s first model—so that's pre-World Industries, still SMA Rocco Division. I had just gotten off Alva and decided to go to the Rocco camp, and that was my first ad. I just remember the ad appeared in the magazine one day. I had no idea. I didn't hear that I was getting an ad. I didn't know that I was even shooting an ad [laughs]. So I saw it just like everybody else in the magazine.

Trying to figure out that trick, basically it just came down to speed. If you had enough speed, you could do it. But you also really needed to use force at the same time. It was a rad-feeling trick. The funny thing is that when that ad came out, the majority of people thought I was just ollieing the pole. A lot of people asked me that. It's rad though. I'm stoked. Just like anything we were doing back in those days. I see everybody doing it now. It's not just the old guys, but the young guys and kids that just started. Everyone doing it and adding their twist to it. It's rad. I don't think it's done yet.

–JEF HARTSEL AS TOLD TO MACKENZIE EISENHOUR

Jef Hartsel, Pole Jam, Venice, CA 1989

"TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THAT TRICK, BASICALLY IT JUST CAME DOWN TO SPEED. IF YOU HAD ENOUGH SPEED, YOU COULD DO IT."

-JEF HARTSEL

* The photo of Chris Cook, aka "Cooksie," (shot by Carlos Reynosa for a Jimmy'Z ad) riding off the side of another Venice pole appeared in 1987. Hartsel's SMA ad was the first image of somebody going straight off the top and apparently the first "make."

PHOTO: HAMMEKE
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WELCOME TO THE TEAM
COREY GLICK

MATT LANE

BLECKLEY

Crooked grind through the kinks. Los Angeles, CA.

If most people who know Matt Lane were forced to describe him with one word, that word would be savage. Having already left almost every spot in Massachusetts in shambles, Matt set out to the West Coast where he has been on a steady killing spree for the last couple years. Last one to leave the party and first one up to Bondo the crack at the spot, you will be seeing a lot more of Matt Lane in the years to come. –JOHN NICHOLSON

Sponsors: Independent Trucks, Acid Wheels, Eastern Boarder

Home: Reading, Massachusetts

Age: 25

Recommended iPhone app: DatPiff.

Can't live without: Nick's Roast Beef.

Lucky charm: Iced coffee.

Video you're looking forward to: *Made Chapter 2*.

Best live show you've seen: Sabado Gigante.

Am who should be pro: Sean Brooks.

Best skater to be stranded on an island with: Dave Mull.

Best style: Donny Barley.

Watch Matt's Video Check Out at TWSKATE.COM

ATLANTA, GA - APRIL 9-10

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL - APRIL 28-30

VOLCOM HQ, CA - JUNE 11-12

CHICAGO, IL - JULY 22-23

WOODWARD WEST, CA - SEPTEMBER 3-4

NYC, NY - SEPTEMBER 16-17

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TAMPA, FL - NOVEMBER 10-13

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RYAN ALVERO

DURSO

Backside 180 nosegrind to forward. Riverside, CA.

Genuine as they come, talented as all hell, Ryan has become a real stand-up grown-ass man who handles his business. You stay focused, Ryan, and you'll get your shine. Stay tuned for his Warco part—it's slotted to be a doozy.
–JORDAN HOFFART

Sponsors: Warco Skateboards, DVS, LRG, Thunder Trucks, Dummy Wheels, Diamond Supply Co, Grizzly Griptape, Active

Home: Temecula, California

Age: 22

Recommended iPhone app:
Instagram.

Can't live without:
Seinfeld.

Lucky charm:
My mom.

Video you're looking forward to:
Spliff Mode 2.

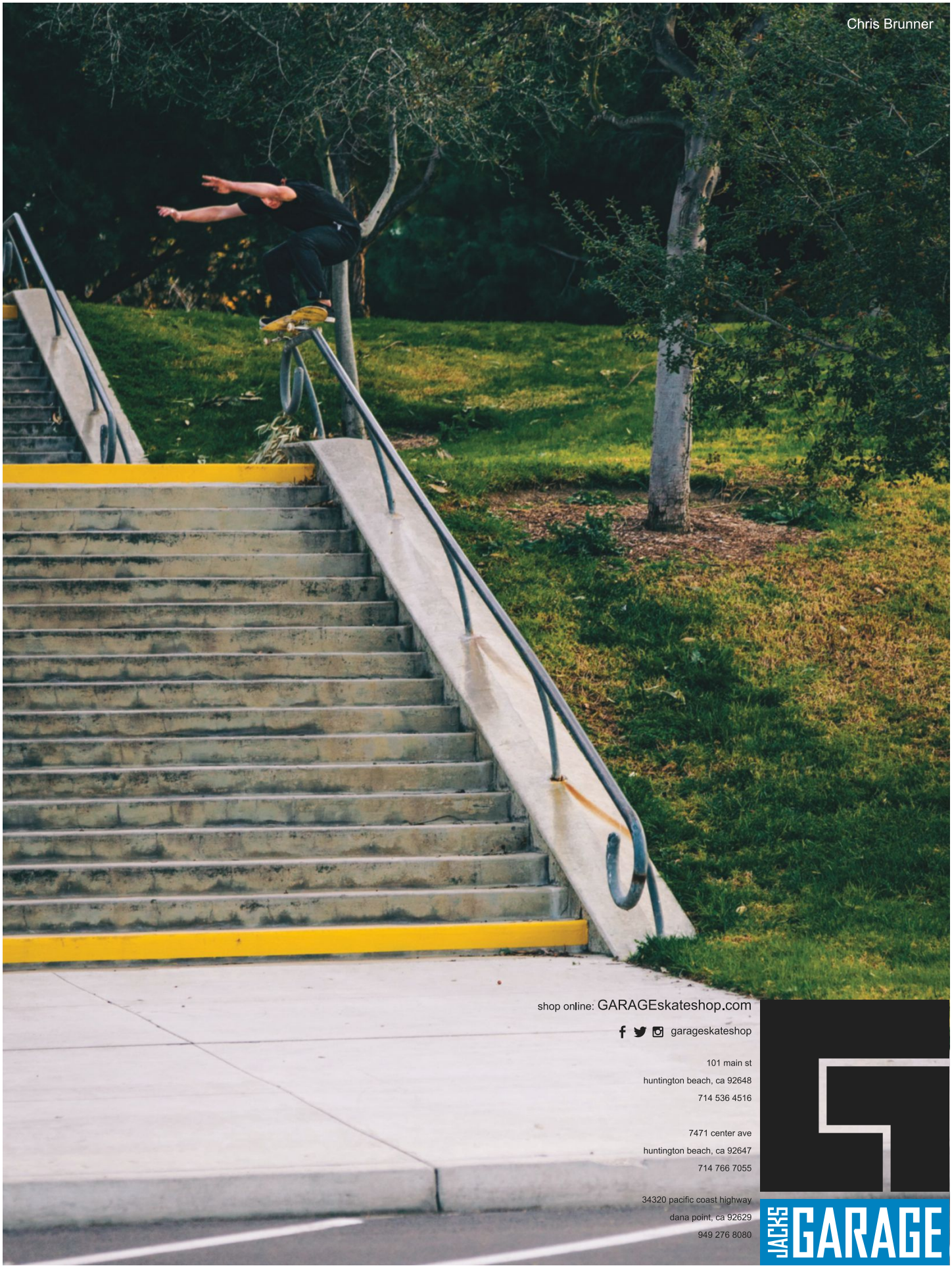
Best live show you've seen:
Andre Nickatina.

Am who should be pro:
Jordan Maxham, Dolan Stearns, Tre Williams.

Best skater to be stranded on an island with:
Jordan Hoffart.

Best style:
Chris Colbourn.

Watch Ryan's Video Check Out at TWSKATE.COM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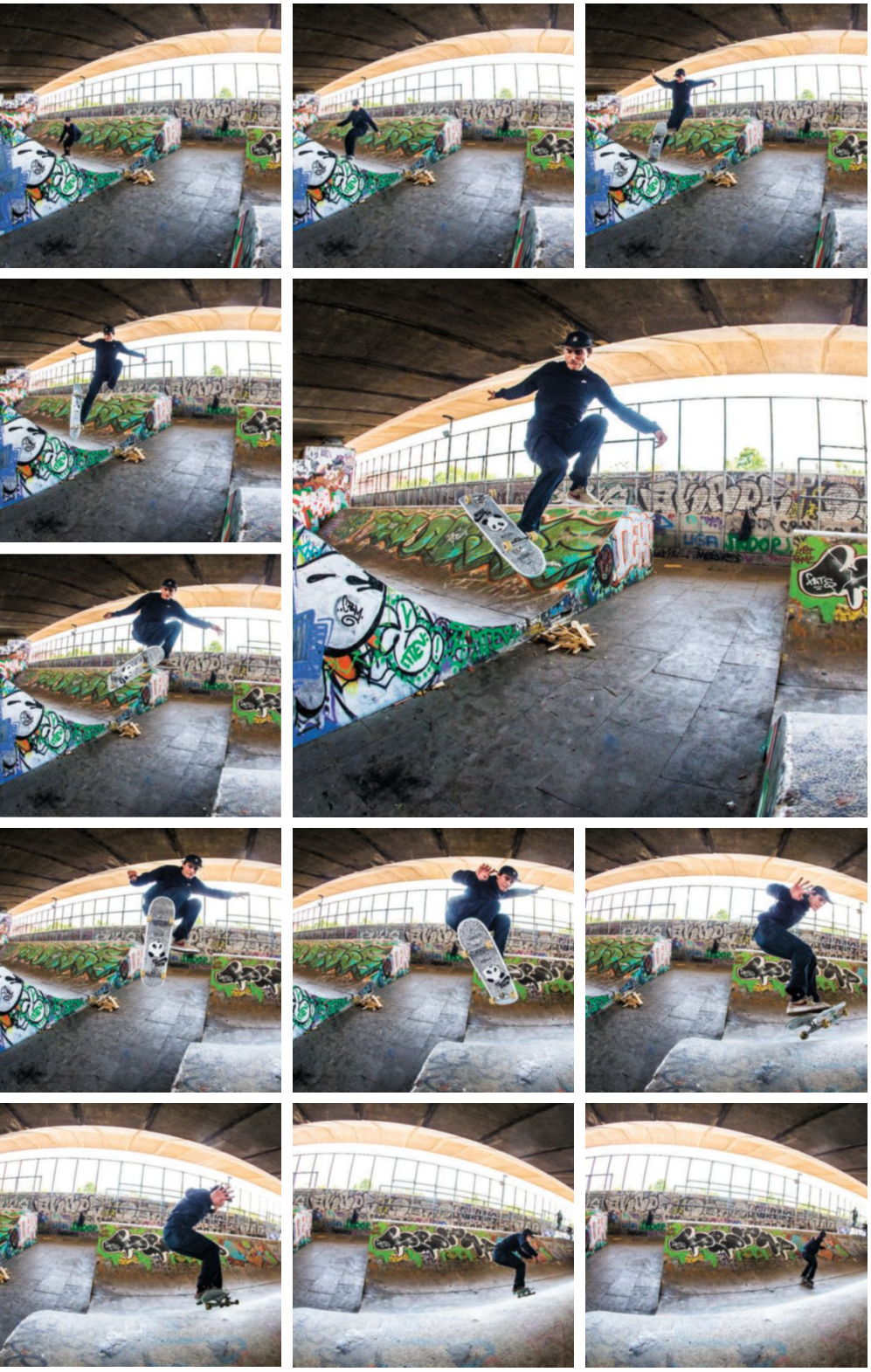
LEUNG



Impossible. London, England.

Deedz is a young new ripper with an old-school soul. He's not afraid to throw down on a big handrail but will be the first to point out a curb that has been painted with that buttery slick red paint. These days he spends his time escaping the Norwegian winters by bouncing back and forth between San Jose and Long Beach. Born in Norway, but brought up on the California skate culture, Deedz is definitely one to look out for in the near future. –LOUIE BARLETTA

Sponsors: enjoi, Nike SB, RVCA, Official, SmoothieXchange

Home: Larvik, Norway

Age: 21

Recommended iPhone app:
Instagram, Yelp.

Can't live without:
Water and food/family and friends.

Lucky charm:
Right now I got a ring.

Video you're looking forward to:
The new Polar video.

Best live show you've seen:
Snoop Dogg in Long Beach.

Am who should be pro:
Dylan Witkin.

Best skater to be stranded on an island with:
It depends which island.

Best style:
Kevin Rodrigues, Jake Johnson, Alex Olson.

Watch Didrik's Video Check Out at TWSKATE.COM

BRO
STYLE

2015 TWS AWARDS

BLAIR

Friday night, January 22, we threw our 18th annual *TransWorld SKATEboarding* Awards show and world premiere of our 27th video *Substance* at the Theatre at the Ace Hotel in Downtown LA. The 1,600 person theater was packed to capacity and the show couldn't have run smoother. Our hosts Brian Schaefer and Lee Dupont (you crazy for those zingers Lee Dogg) kept the audience entertained as they roared for winners Miles Silvas, Ishod Wair, Fucking Awesome and more. Ed Templeton received our Legend Award and gave a heartfelt speech garnering him a standing ovation. Just before the premiere of *Substance*, the cast got on stage with Chris Thiessen and Paul Shier surprised Jon Nguyen with his pro board! The whole night really set the bar of how great our Awards show can be. Pick up *Substance* now and come out to the Awards next year! **–BLAIR ALLEY**

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MIKE'S HARD GOES

Skate Mental drink the preferred drink of college girls en route to an iconic American tourist trap.

WORDS & PHOTOS BY RYAN ALLAN

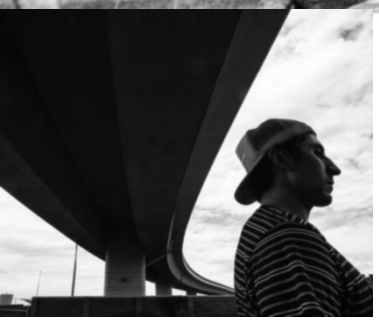
I want to preface this article by saying it was all Tom K's idea.

One Saturday morning this past spring, I heard that all-too-familiar iPhone text message sound from the next room. Most skate photographers would be out skating on a Saturday morning, but lately I've left the daily hustle to the youngsters and I hold out for trips or special projects. So old and jaded, I know. But I digress. I hear the text message sound go off in the next room, so I check it out. It's a text from Tom K. You know Tom, the guy who does the wallrides? He was asking me if I'd be down to go on a trip to Mount Rushmore with him. "Fuck yeah! I'm super down!" He then proceeded to tell me that it was a Skate Mental trip and it was all camping. No hotels, no showers, et cetera. Usually I'm down for this type of thing, but my concern was more for the people on the team who might be less than prepared. Basically, everyone other than Dan Plunkett. Would I become the default dad on the trip and Brad Staba the cool uncle who buys everyone alcohol? Everyone reading this already knows the answer. #StabaCares

The reason Tom decided we go to Mount Rushmore was a pretty loose but funny one. Somehow, most likely while very bored (straight-edge kids get very bored), Tom found a pizza joint just outside of Mount Rushmore named Big Time Pizza. If you're a Skate Mental fan, you know that its parent distribution company run by none other than Brad Staba—a famous lover of pizza—is called Big Time Distribution™.

Obviously we had to go, and obviously Brad was very down for this trip. So be it.

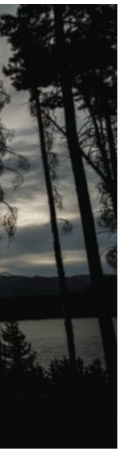
Jake Anderson, frontside flip.



Dan Plunkett, Ollie Into the Driveway
This ollie is super gnar. We were shown this spot by SLC's finest mutant, Big Biz Liz aka Lizard King. The lady in the living room watching her TV didn't even mind Dan moving her barbecue to make room on the runway. Nice people in SLC. Melt your dick off.

Tom K, 50-50 Into Freeway Embankment
Tom can see spots from miles away. Granted, they are usually wallies or wallrides, but this time he spotted a super gnarl 50-50 while we were getting gas down the street. It only took Tom a couple of tries to get it, and when we got back to the van Brad was super full of enthusiasm. "God, Tom. Get in the fuckin' van. Stupid 50-50." #StabaStillCares

Jake Anderson, Kickflip
Jake was so elated that he got on Skate Mental that he asked if he could hear just one song from his Spotify to celebrate. Of course it was a unanimous no. Slightly defeated, he still blasted this kickflip over the stairs and rail. Poor kid.



Fernando Bramsmark aka Darkness, Backside 50-50
Lizard took us to this rail as well and told us he knew about it because his family has weekly dinners there. All I saw was weirdly nice old people coming out of there. They'd stop and have a look at what we were doing and say the usual "gonna break your neck" and shuffle along. Breaking his neck was not on Darkness' mind, 'cause he lands his shit.

Dan Plunkett, No Comply Flip
Dan was the driver for most of the trip, and this was by choice. I have no idea why he wouldn't want to be in the back of the van with shirtless dudes drunk on Mike's Hard and Budweiser. To each his own. Guess it kept him sober enough for no comply flips.

Tom K, Jammer 50-50
Now this is a Tom K trick I can get behind. Jam up to 50-50. I felt sorta bad for Tom because he has never tasted the nectar of the gods that is Mike's Hard. The dude only eats avocados and is always trying to push them on you like a drug dealer. No, Tom, I don't want to share your avocado.

Scope of Week

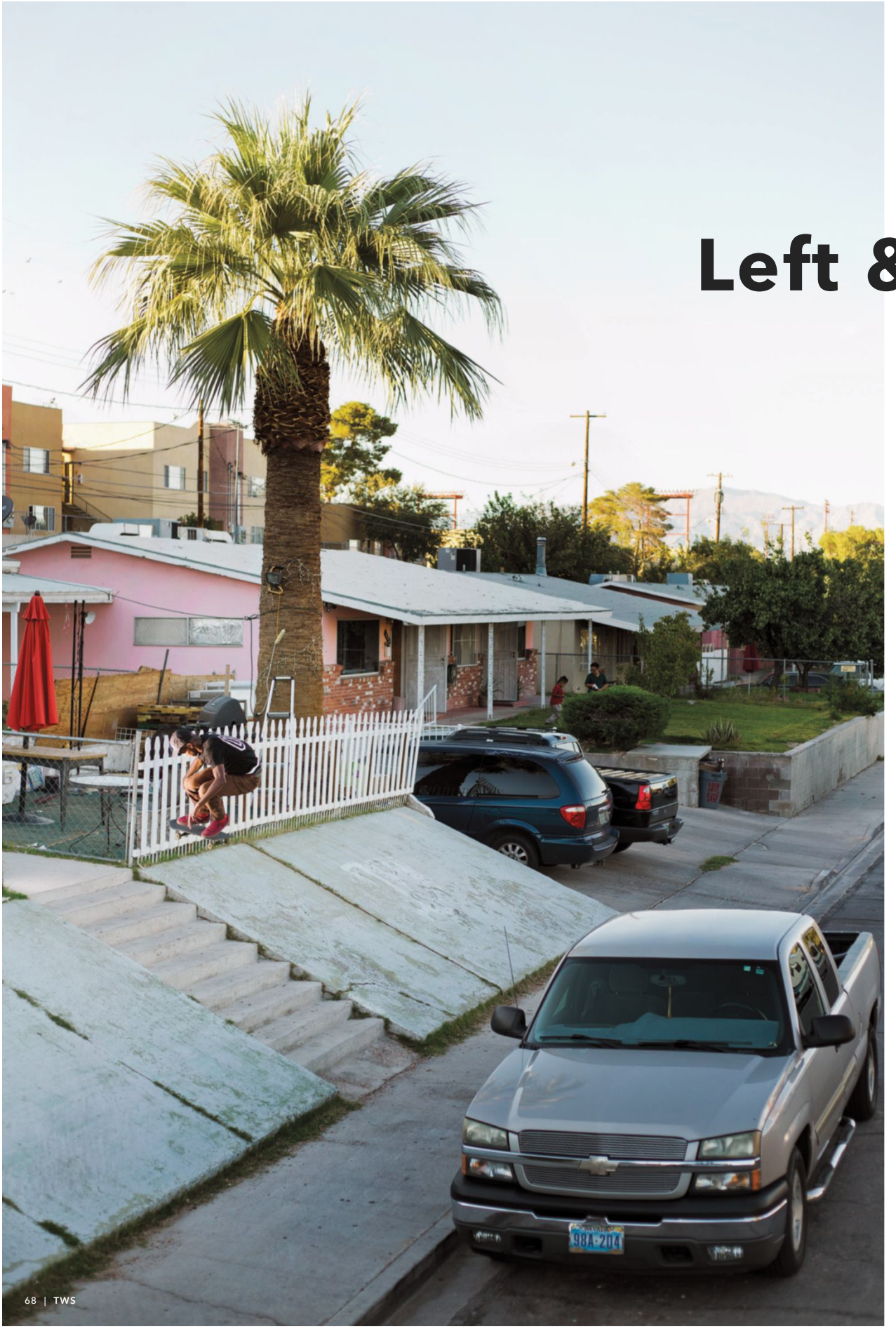
Backside kickflip

Karsten Kleppan, Kickflip
Karsten is a bit of an odd name, so as most Americans do, we just renamed him. Chad fucking goes. Chad drinks Bud and wears Speedies and does not wear shirts whilst drinking. Chad got so drunk on one of the drives that he put Jake on the Skate Mental team. Every Chad needs a Jake. Kickflip over and onto a crud bank.

To wrap up this article, Brad wanted to add his take on the trip. Take it away, Staba:

"We skated a fucking bank to curb, some asshole shit park, and a decent amount of terrible flatground. We did no demos. Nobody wanted to share an avocado with Tom, and Jake didn't get to play his music but got on the team. I'd like to thank Mike's Hard™, whoever at Kraft that invented Easy Cheese™, and the talent."

Left &



Miles Lawrence, backside kickflip, Las Vegas NV.

AYC Southwest

WORDS BY DAN REED

Leaving

A lot can change in a couple years.

When Nyjah told us he was going to "just do it" this year, we were hyped. Then we realized he wasn't talking about *Fade To Black 2* for an exclusive AYC release. Then we were significantly less hyped. Swooshed again. Damn. Not that we blame him. I mean, shit—who's turning down LeBron money? If AYC's about taking it from the streets to the yacht, it'd be a little hypocritical for us to be mad at that. But we weren't letting him off easy, either, so we made sure to get one more budget-ass tour on the books before his private jet left for Portland, just to give him one last taste of the working class.

PHOTOS BY CAMERON STRAND

AYC Southwest

Since AYC's 2013 West Coast Tour was our first big rollout after launching the brand, it seemed like an appropriate place for a send-off. Plus, we've got a lot of new blood on the team and figured it was time to break them in on a trip that wasn't all mai tais and jet skis.

This was a far cry from Stephen Lawyer's first trip with us to Hawaii, but he's one of those guys who seems at home in pretty much any setting—and is infuriatingly good at making a skateboard do whatever the hell pops into his psychedelically enhanced brain. He's also a day-one Shep Dawg, and he and Riley Hawk being homies shows you exactly how great skateboarding is at bringing all types of people together. Dirt rocker and designer boy—it's kind of like going backstage at Coachella and seeing Jack White kicking it with Drake. And just as entertaining as that sounds.

Riley was laid up with an injury for this trip, but was cool enough to come along anyway to keep up morale and make sure there was enough Sabbath on the playlist. It's crazy to think that the first time we did this trip, Riley was still an am and Jaws was just along for the ride as a homie.

Stephen Lawyer, backside Smith, Phoenix AZ.

Derrick Wilson, switch frontside bigspin. Phoenix AZ.

Thomas Dritsas, gap to frontside tailslide. San Bernardino CA.

5
10
20
15
45

AYC Southwest

This was AYC's first two-Wilson tour: Asphalt OG Derrick Wilson brought his usual, effortless style and held it down for Long Beach in classic fashion. Cole Wilson, AYC's newest addition, came straight off the Bro Style. This was far from the glamorous AYC trip he expected from the magazines, but he didn't bat an eye, locking down more tricks than anyone while generating enough empty beer bottles and cigarette cartons to fill a small swimming pool. Epic.

Flow homies Thomas Dritsas and Miles Lawrence came along for the ride as well, putting in work in hopes of making the next tropical session. Somebody (we won't name names) slept on a golden rule of telling the team manager before the trip if you're hurt in case your shredding doesn't go as planned. It's all good, though—Blake Carpenter didn't know you couldn't bring your girlfriend on his first trip, and in the swoosh of an eye, he was making that Serena Williams money.

Left And Leaving was also the first AYC trip for our new team manager, Jerome. We like to have an eclectic mix in our crew, and anyone who can keep a train with this many different personalities on the tracks deserves some serious respect. Plus, he's a white dude named Jerome. That's not easy.

Cole Wilson, gap frontside wallride. Las Vegas NV.

Aaron Homoki, frontside 180. Las Vegas NV.

Aaron flies over Cole Wilson. Las Vegas NV.

AYC Southwest

Nyjah thwarted all of our plans for making him grind it out one last time by skipping the van and only flying in and out for demos and signings. Sure, we could hate on that, but when oceans of kids roll out every time he shows up and he skates like a goddamn Shaolin master, what can you say? If you can back it up, live the dream. Stevie Williams' most impressive trick of the trip was managing to somehow miss both of his flights and never make it out to join the tour. Message received: no more desert trips.

A lot can change in a couple years. Teams change and so does the industry that surrounds them. One year you're a controversial upstart who no one thinks is going to last, the next year you've got so much juice that you're suddenly the farm team for the heavyweight champion of the world. It's easy to get caught up in the changes, to get too focused on the scenery and forget the road you're on and why you put your foot on the gas in the first place, and to remember that some of the most crucial things don't change—like a bunch of guys in a sweaty van, music blaring, talking shit on their way to go do what they love to do more than anything in the world. Huge shout out to all those who came out and shredded with us and all the shops that graciously hosted us. We will see you all soon.

Cole Wilson, feeble grind. Barstow CA.

SICKNESS

BRO STYLE GNARKANSAS

 WORDS & PHOTOS BY JAIME OWENS

BROTHERS

This was to be the sickest griptape team trip ever because it so happened to be the first-ever Bro Style (aka Sickness Brothers) team trip consisting of Leo Romero, Dakota Servold, Mason Silva, Corey Glick, Matt Bennett, our little buddy David Reyes who has since moved on to greener pastures, and cover boy Cole Wilson. And let's not forget HK. That's right, Heath Kirchart came along. But would he skate? That was the million-dollar question. With my old ass not going on many trips these days, I have to choose any time on the road wisely because I'm not trying to get stuck in a van full of dipshits who complain constantly or can't produce, but I knew my Sickness Brothers were the real deal. I had been on an Eswic trip the past year with most of this crew and knew they didn't screw around. They handle business like pros are supposed to. All day, every day was a mission to bust. No bullshit. Our target destination was Arkansas with a little bit of Oklahoma thrown in there. I had no clue that there was such a plethora of rad spots in this tiny pocket of the country known as Gnarkansas. The locals were also incredibly nice and rad to skate with: Jono Sinclair, Nick Gibson, Shawn Rogers, and the Boardertown Skate Shop crew. It turned out to be one hell of a trip and one for the books. Thanks to all the Bro Style crew including Mike Sinclair and TJ Gaskill for having me along to document such amazing shredding from guys I love. Until next time, my brothers of sickness.

Corey Glick, backside tailslide. Fayetteville, AR.
Corey's got style for miles—especially since he cut his Tiny Tim (from the Howard Stern show) haircut from the previous trip we went on. It was distracting. And I know, I know, this is coming from a guy who's bald.

Dakota Servold, stalefish. Tulsa, OK.
This was a cool and different spot for this handrail-heavy trip and was even cooler to find out Dakota has stalefishes on lock. Yeah, Kodi Boi! The rest of the crew watched this session from a local dive-bar window in the parking lot below, and one of the local bar bums tried to catch a ride with us but was denied on fear of the possibility of him becoming a corpse in the very near future.

Cole Wilson, frontside nosegrind grab. Tulsa, OK.
The first heavy trick to go down on the trip, Cole was just hinting at how he was about to fuck things up over the next week. How about that cover trick? Holy hell.

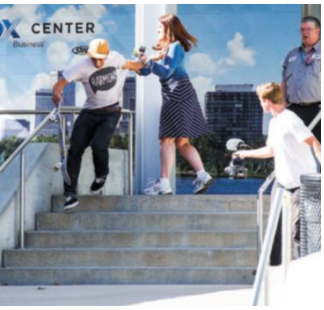
BRO STYLE GNARKANSAS

Matt Bennett, slappy 50-50. Tulsa, OK.
I've always been a fan of Matt, and this was the first photo we ever shot together, so I was hyped. Matt has been getting behind the lens a lot lately too and filming with his VX, so be on the lookout for his trip edit on twskate.com soon.

Mason Silva, alley-oop frontside 180 into bank. Tulsa, OK.
One of the newest BroStyle team riders, Mason was fairly quiet in the back of the van during the beginning of the trip, but once he saw this spot and did this fucked-up trick, his skating spoke for him with power and control. And he's also got great taste in music for such a young ripper.

Leo Romero, frontside five-0, Fayetteville, AR. Leo got fired up to buy some baseball gear early on the trip, so anytime we were near a field we turned into a bunch of jockers and played baseball with only one glove. During one game he was crowding the plate as it's known, and I popped him in the back with a fastball. He was still able to five-0 the shit out of this two-story handrail with a bruised back.

BRO STYLE GNARKANSAS



BRO STYLE GNARKANSAS

Mason, backside kickflip, Fort Smith, AR. Crusty spot with crusty ground, Mason didn't flinch at stomping a solid backside flip over this rail. That boy good.

Heath, frontside ollie, Fort Smith, AR. Heath didn't even touch his board for the majority of the trip because he was too busy gambling with everyone on sports games, the next jukebox song that was going to play, and even who was going to sleep on the floor in his room. I lost that bet one night. But when we got to Boardertown skatepark for a demo, things changed—Heath put down his iPad that I thought was glued to his hand and skated nonstop on this boat-shaped mini-ramp with a big ol' smile on his face.

Leo, boardslide, Fort Smith, AR.
This was in the back of a hotel, so some of the guys tried to run a distraction at the front desk while we skated. This wasn't too hard of a task because the guys said the girls working the front were pretty hot. Their game must not have been on point that day though, because the girls quickly saw through their thinly veiled flirts and came to kick us out. Leo only had a few minutes to roll away from this double-kink boardslide.

Corey, heelflip into bank. Tulsa, OK.
Another one of the few spots we skated that wasn't a handrail. This one had a spracker overpass dweller hanging out on the session creeping everyone out. He tied his dog to a post at the bottom of the bank and walked away, so the guys had to dodge the puppy while going Mach 10 down the bank. It didn't hamper Corey's booster of a heelflip at all. He good like that.

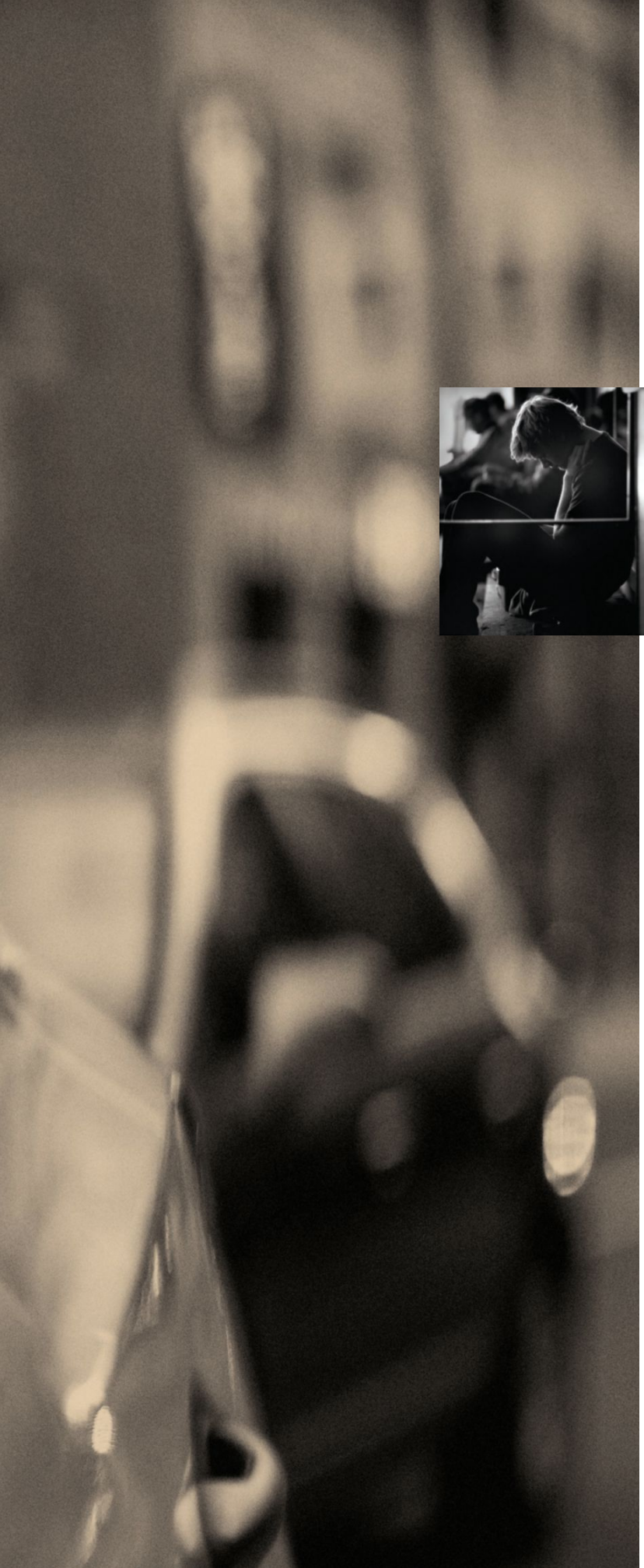
BRO STYLE GNARKANSAS

Dakota, boardslide up. Tulsa, OK.
It's not too often (or ever) when two monumental tricks go down at the same session. With Dakota and Cole feeding off of each other trying to go upstream, Dakota made this boardslide first and went all the way over the top to make this a triple-kink boardslide up. Wow, epic trip boys. Let's do it again.

PRO SPOTLIGHT

ALEC MAJERUS*

WORDS BY MACKENZIE EISENHOUR
PHOTOS BY SEM RUBIO



*FLIPSKATER63

Alec Majerus sealed his destiny at age nine when he chose flipskater63 as one of his first email addresses. Having held on to it for some 12 years since, he initially never actually believed he would one day be riding for the company—until it happened. After his childhood dream became a reality, Alec also learned the harsh realities of skating for one of the heaviest stair-jumping outfits in the industry: cleanly breaking his leg in 2014—not from any specific trick, but simply from the buildup of stress placed on the leg through repeated impact. If that weren't enough, immediately after surgery for the broken leg, he underwent a second emergency surgery when the metal pins inserted set off a staph infection. Back on his board since March of 2015, Alec breaks down the upcoming adidas full-length *Away Days*, chooses his Minnesota greats, and chronicles his path from Flip fan boy to Flip poster child.

ALEC MAJERUS

"I FOUND OUT LATER THAT IT WAS ALREADY CRACKED OR FRACTURED, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT. THAT WAS WHAT THE PAIN WAS FROM."

We're two months in right now. How's the New Year been treating you?
It's been good so far. Just a lot of trips. A lot of traveling.

How long have you guys been out in Miami?
Just since last Thursday.

Had you been out there before?
I was here for an adidas trip last year. But that was the only other time I had been here. I'm feeling it though. It's nice.

How is *Away Days* looking?
Away Days is going good. We've done a lot of really good trips for it.

How long has it been officially going? Like a year or so?
Maybe a little longer than that. People have been filming for maybe like two years or so. Even before it was announced.

Do you know how your part is looking?
I'm pretty hyped on what I have so far for it. I broke my leg back in 2014, so I was out for almost a whole year. So that was sort of a major setback.

How did you break it?
I broke it on King Of The Road actually. It was one of those things that had sort of built up over time I guess. But it was towards the end of King Of The Road and my knee was hurting me really bad. It was kind of giving out and stuff. I knew I shouldn't be skating, but there was a challenge that I thought I could do. It was a kickflip front noseblunt down a nine [stair]. I went for it one try, warming up, just kind of kickflipped over the rail and landed completely normal, but my leg just snapped. I found out later that it was already cracked or fractured, but I didn't know it. That was what the pain was from. It just snapped right where your shinbone connects to the knee.

Oh, man. That's gnarly.
Yeah. I had to get flown from where I was on the road back to the hospital in my town. They did the surgery there and put metal pins in it and then I got a staph infection. So then they had to do another emergency surgery to take the metal out. And they're not supposed to take the metal out for a year usually, but it ended up being okay after that.

Switch backside Smith. Montreal, Canada.

ALEC MAJERUS

Backside tailslide. Stuttgart, Germany.

"YOU KNOW HOW IT SEEMS LIKE WHEN YOU'RE HYPED, YOU SEEM TO GET LUCKIER."

Such a nightmare.
Yeah. When I first broke it, I went in and the nurse, it was a male nurse, and he was like, "Oh wow, this is impressive. You're obviously never skating again." I was just sitting there tripping like, "What the fuck, don't tell me that." I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy.

When did you finally get back on it?
I think I started skating again like March of this past year. Its pretty much 100 percent now. It still gets a little sore after I skate, but it's pretty much back to normal now.

Was that pretty much your first big injury?
For sure. I had never had anything like that ever, where I had to sit out for that long and everything.

Did it change your approach at all?
Not really. It was just a weird occurrence. I don't know how my leg had gotten cracked originally. But it basically started from that. It had built up over time. I didn't even know your body could do that really.

Four Minnesota greats?
Mine would probably be Chad Benson. I would see him at 3rd Lair [skatepark] all the time. Then also Cody Davis. When I was real little I would always see him there too. I know he's maybe not viewed as a "legend" or anything, but he was so fucking good. Growing up, he was close to my age and I would just watch him skate and be like, "What the fuck?!" I knew he was sponsored and stuff too. Obviously Davis Torgerson too. Growing up he was always the older dude who was killing it and sponsored too. Then last, I'll go with Clint Peterson. He's beast.

How was it coming up there?
It was great. I mean, for a long time I never really saw other really good skateboarders. Before I got my license at 16, I never really went to the Minneapolis area. I always stayed in the Rochester area where I lived. Once we got old enough, we would drive up to the cities. But I moved to California when I turned 18, so there was really only a two-year window where I was doing that.

Best memories from the Tampa Am win [2012]?
I was so surprised that I even made it into the finals. And then, I don't know, I guess I just got lucky and landed my whole run. I think, honestly, it was because I was so happy being in there—having such a good time with all the bros—that I got lucky. You know how it seems like when you're hyped, you seem to get luckier.

Yeah, fully. Like if you're bummed, it almost attracts the bad shit.
Yeah, exactly. I was just so hyped to be there. I think it all worked from there.

How did you wind up on Flip?
When I first started coming out to Cali I would stay with Louie [Lopez] through us both riding for Volcom. So I skated and lived with him for weeks at a time when Volcom would fly me out to Cali, and we were both doing online school together too. Finally Flip approached me like, "Hey, you're always skating with Louie anyways, might as well ride for us."

Were you a big Flip fan coming up?
It's crazy, when I was really young, like eight or nine, I made my email address flipskater63. I kept that address forever. I still have it. Even when I was getting flow for Alien [Workshop] before I got on Flip they would say stuff like, "You need to change your email." But I never did. Then I ended up actually getting on Flip and still had that email, and I was just thinking like, "Whoa, that kind of worked out." My first board I ever had was a Flip board.

I saw your email and was wondering, it looks like a little kid's email.
[Laughs] Yeah, well, that's why. At first when I got on it tripped me out. I felt like I didn't deserve to be on the team.

Thoughts on Geoff Rowley leaving?
I don't really know too much about it. He told me recently he's happier than he's been in a long time, so I guess he did what he had to do. He's just trying to skate and have fun. Obviously though it's a bummer not to have him as a teammate.

Kickflip crooked grind. Barcelona, Spain. CHAMI

ALEC MAJERUS

Hardflip. Barcelona, Spain.

ALEC MAJERUS

"MEANING OF LIFE: DON'T STRESS. HAVE FUN. NOTHING REALLY MATTERS."

How was your experience with Street League?
Not bad. I'm not in it right now, but I got to skate it a few years back as an alternate. Last year I got to skate some of them too. I was at the Chicago one and had a broken foot, but I wanted to skate so bad that I ended up skating anyways. I couldn't even practice, but I waited for the contest to start and got my adrenaline going and tried some tricks.

Do you feel relaxed in there?
It's cool. It's nerve-racking at first. But once you're out there skating with everyone, it's actually pretty mellow after you shake off the jitters. It's actually a very mellow contest format, because everybody goes in turns and you're all talking between tries.

How many Cheech and Chong Tom Penny boards have you ridden?
Oh, the thing is I love that graphic and I love to ride them too, but they only make them on P2 boards now, so I don't really ride those. I do have one hung up over my couch at home though. That graphic is legendary.

Most-used app on your phone?
I'll say Maps, because I don't know where shit is in California. I have to use my Maps to go everywhere.

First video you memorized?
Almost, *Round 3* ['04]. I played that shit every single day. I didn't really know about skate videos for a long time. I loved skating, but one day my homey asked me like, "Hey, do you like videos?" I was like, "What do you mean?" And he handed me *Round 3* and was like, "Here, I got you this for Christmas." I watched it and loved it. I was a huge [Ryan] Sheckler fan after that.

First board graphic you fell in love with?
Like I said, the first one I ever had was the classic Flip logo board with the red and black. It was right when they had the grooves in the board that were supposed to make you slide better or something.

The "New Wave" boards or something?
Yeah. That was my first board. I had that shit for at least a year. I loved it.

What is the meaning of life?
Meaning of life: Don't stress. Have fun. Nothing really matters.

Skateboarders who are doing it right in 2016?
Miles Silvas, Louie Lopez, and Mason Silva. I think that those guys are fucking on it right now.

Frontside five-0. Montreal, Canada.

ALEC MAJERUS

360 flip 50-50. Stanford, CA . CAMARILLO

SIGHT: UNLOAD

 Tre Williams, gap to backside Smith grind. Los Angeles, CA. STRAND

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

STOP
STOP
STOP

Al Davis, switch ollie. San Francisco, CA. PALOZZOLO

 Alex Lawton, backside flip. Vietnam. GUARDIGLI

SIGHT: Sloping

 James Capps, switch frontside bigspin. San Francisco, CA . CHAMI

STEVE OLSON

OWENS

Steve Olson is one of the OG godfathers and legends of modern skateboarding. He helped merge the punk-rock look and attitude to skateboarding in the late '70s and early '80s, and we should all be thankful for that or skateboarding wouldn't be the same. And he's still that cool cat to this day.–JAIME OWENS

Last Cry:
A day ago.

Last Laugh:
A couple minutes ago.

Last Regret:
I don't have any.

Last Failure:
Nothing but lessons.

Last Disappointment:
A while ago.

Last Achievement:
This morning, I got a contract for a new sculpture to make.

Last Kiss:
Last night.

Last Trick Filmed:
Frontside slash.

Last Movie:
The Revenant.

Last Album:
Pandora.

Last Major Purchase:
Art supplies.

Last Thing You Shared:
My love.

Last Thing You Created:
A drawing of neural pathways.

Last Thing You Destroyed:
A piece of paper.

Last Celebrity Sighting:
What's a celebrity?

Last Nightmare:
I don't have them.

Last Dream:
Shit. I don't remember any of them.

Last Time You Were Scared:
Periodically.

Last Video Part That Got You Stoked:
Lance Mountain's.

Last Freak-Out:
Yesterday.

Last Thing Borrowed:
A shop vacuum.

Last Non-Skate Dream Sponsor:
Google.

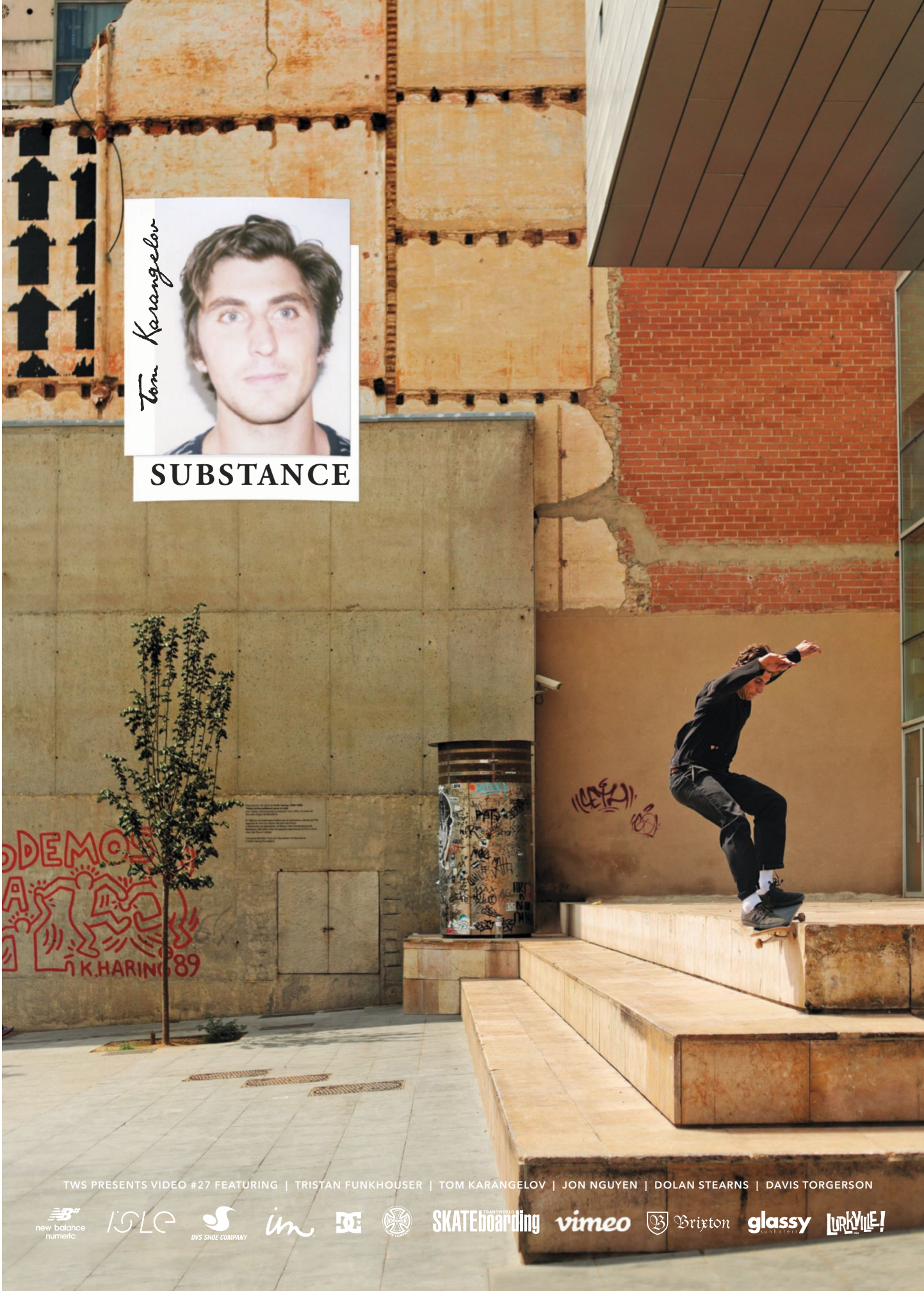
Last Trophy You Won:
Skateboard Hall of Fame.

Last Time You Skated Supreme Bowl:
Don't remember.

Last Thing You Said To Alex:
Everything is going to be okay.

Last Supermodel You Dated:
Never dated one.

Last Words Of Advice:
Mindfulness.



Tom Karangelov, frontside Smith, Barcelona, Spain. PHOTO / **STRAND**

THE STREETS ARE OURS
Words & Photography by **Jaime Owens**

While on the Bro Style trip featured in this issue, one of our local tour guides was **Nick Gibson**. Nick was super nice and very accommodating to our van full of monkeys, myself included. Well, it turned out that Nick was a fucking ripper and a local legend. While you always meet great local skaters on tours, Nick stood out because he was a great human, too. Soft spoken and very in tune with the local scene to which he has dedicated so much time and love to. He even told me that he had shunned the move to California that many skaters dream of in hopes of trying to "make it" so he could stay home and build his local scene. The respect he commanded from the locals and from us was second to none. And his skills were on that same level. He **frontside flipped over this rail** and into the crustiest bank possible. Yep, you're a legend Nick. This page is dedicated to Nick and all the skaters around the world who support their local scene no matter how small or remote it is; for those who do it all for the love of skateboarding.

KEVIN KOWALSKI

HELL
AND
BACK
BOO JOHNSON / LIPSLIDE
IN WELL WORN KLASSIC CROPPED CHINOS
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